STATE OF CALIFORNIA FISH AND GAME COMMISSION INITIAL STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR REGULATORY ACTION (Pre-Publication of Notice Statement)

Amend Subsection (a) of Section 478.1, Title 14, California Code of Regulations Re: Bobcat Hunting Tag Fees

I. Date of Initial Statement of Reasons: January 5, 2005

II. Dates and Locations of Scheduled Hearings:

(a) Notice Hearing: Date: February 4, 2005

Location: San Diego

(b) Discussion/Adoption Hearing: Date: May 5, 2005

Location: Sacramento

- III. Description of Regulatory Action:
 - (a) Statement of Specific Purpose of Regulation Change and Factual Basis for Determining that Regulation Change is Reasonably Necessary:

Existing regulations specify fees for bobcat hunting tags. Pursuant to Section 713 of the Fish and Game Code, and Section 699, Title 14, the Department must adjust fees annually based on a calculated cost-of-living adjustment. The proposed changes would update fees listed in Subsection (a) of Section 478.1 for consistency with adjustments made pursuant to Section 713, Fish and Game Code and Section 699, Title14.

Subsection (a) of Section 478.1 has not been amended since 1997 and therefore, is not consistent with Section 713, Fish and Game Code and Section 699, Title 14. Bobcat hunting tag fees have been indexed for the change in cost of goods and services according to Section 713, Fish and Game Code and Section 699, Title 14 as follows:

1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
\$9.50	\$9.75	\$10.00	\$10.25	\$10.75	\$11.00	\$11.00	\$11.25	\$11.50

(b) Authority and Reference Sections from Fish and Game Code for Regulation:

Authority: Sections 713 and 4150 of the Fish and Game Code. Reference: Sections 713 and 4150 of the Fish and Game Code.

(c) Specific Technology or Equipment Required by Regulatory Change:

None

(d) Identification of Reports or Documents Supporting Regulation Change:

None

(e) Public Discussions of Proposed Regulations Prior to Notice Publication:

None

- IV. Description of Reasonable Alternatives to Regulatory Action:
 - (a) Alternatives to Regulation Change:

There is no reasonable alternative to the proposed action.

(b) No Change Alternative:

The no-change alternative was considered and found inadequate to attain the project objectives. Retaining the current fees listed in Subsection (a) of Section 478.1 would be inconsistent with adjustments to fees made pursuant to Section 713 of the Fish and Game Code, and Section 699, Title 14, potentially leading to confusion.

(c) Consideration of Alternatives:

In view of information currently possessed, no reasonable alternative considered would be more effective in carrying out the purposes for which the regulation is proposed or would be as effective and less burdensome to the affected private persons than the proposed regulation.

V. Mitigation Measures Required by Regulatory Action:

The proposed regulatory action will have no negative impact on the environment; therefore, no mitigation measures are needed.

VI. Impact of Regulatory Action:

The potential for significant statewide adverse economic impacts that might result from the proposed regulatory action has been assessed, and following initial determinations relative to the required statutory categories have been made.

(a) Significant Statewide Adverse Economic Impact Directly Affecting Businesses, Including the Ability of California Businessmen to Compete with Businesses in Other States:

The proposed action will not have a significant statewide adverse economic impact directly affecting business, including the ability of California businesses to compete with businesses in other states. The proposed action provides consistency with the Fish and Game Code; adjusts fees pursuant to Section 713, Fish and Game Code and Section 699, Title 14; and is economically neutral to businesses.

(b) Impact on the Creation or Elimination of Jobs Within the State, the Creation of New Businesses or the Elimination of Existing Businesses, or the Expansion of Businesses in California:

None

(c) Cost Impacts on Private Persons:

The agency is not aware of any cost impacts that a representative private person would necessarily incur in reasonable compliance with the proposed action.

(d) Costs or Savings to State Agencies or Costs/Savings in Federal Funding to the State:

(e)	Other Nondiscretionary Costs/Savings to Local Agencies:				
	None				
(f)	Programs Mandated on Local Agencies or School Districts:				
	None				
(g)	Costs Imposed on Any Local Agency or School District that is Required to be Reimbursed under Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division 4:				
	None				
(h)	Effect on Housing Costs:				

None

None

INFORMATIVE DIGEST (Policy Statement Overview)

Existing regulations provide fees for bobcat hunting tags Pursuant to Section 713 of the Fish and Game Code and Section 699, Title 14, these fees are adjusted annually based on a calculated cost-of-living adjustment. The proposed changes would revise fees listed in Subsection (a) of Section 478.1 for consistency with adjustments made pursuant to Section 713, Fish and Game Code and Section 699, Title 14.